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Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February-23 March 2018
Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Written statement* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-02517(E)
1802517

Please recycle

Reports on the situation of the Syrian people and relief activities

War as an essential crisis affect the world, adversely.
Forcing people to flee their houses, Increasing violence, poverty and unsafety, war threaten lives of millions of people and expose kids to the serious dangers.
A set of irreparable damages of war have been detected in the Syrian Arab Republic, during the survey of IAPSRS representatives. They can be summarised as:

Migration: even if people survive themselves by migration, they might no longer experience normal life. Continuous hunger or trading refugee's body parts, are the least risks are expecting them.

Negative mental effects:
Watching videos that shows how their family members are murdering by ISIS, put them next to the deep depression which might lead to suicide.

Jihad marriage:
Shocking statistics of Jihad marriage's kids, who are keeping in Ghorat-ol-Asad, far away from parents, confirms war's influence is getting more destructive.

It was decided to build a peace house, getting local people help, to support vulnerable kids. It might be a candle to turn on a gleam of light in a deep darkness. A universal light need the world's awareness and action.

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February-23 March 2018
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2018]

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Please recycle

Sport for Peace

Sport has always been a way of eliminating cultural and racial differences and bringing together the human society to experience the beauty of life in peace beyond the borders of the geographical, racial, ethnic, and above all languages, colours and cultures.

Unfortunately, in today's world, sport has been separated from its vital and effective role for affinity and reconciliation and friendship between different societies, becoming a means in the hands of the capitalists and greedy people for the sake of fame and wealth. On the contrary, sport discourse has always been a powerful means for building solidarity between people. Undoubtedly, nothing like sport can bring people closer to one another, and change their feelings regardless of their customs, race, or culture.

Sports competitions and participation of the athletes of different countries and races in sport events can always be a step towards convergence and solidarity between the human society and the prevention of racial and ethnic violence and conflicts. Undoubtedly, in a world full of violence and extremism today, it is the spirit of sport, with an emphasis on heroic and chivalrous morality, which can be a way of salvation to establish peace and friendship and to strengthen the spirit of unity in human society. As the athletes, by attending the sports fields in an atmosphere full of friendship and kindness, present a worthy model of peace, reconciliation and integration to all people, regardless of the cultural and ethnic differences and beyond any race, colour, or religious beliefs.

In this regard, Imam Ali's Popular Student Relief Society, as an NGO that has defined its mission in the development of peace and reconciliation, has designed and implemented a national sport league for children living in marginalized and poor areas called the Persian League. The Persian League, which has presented a scene to show integration, convergence, peace and friendship among different ethnicities and cultures, has been able to present a capable and unique model for today's mature world that is full of gaps and tensions by creating sports teams for children of different ethnicities who practice together friendly and honestly.

It is noteworthy that this year, along with the expansion of the message of peace and friendship, suffered children from poor areas throughout the country have participated in the Third football League, as well as the first volleyball league and the first track-and-field league. Considering all the ethical and technical beauties and pure sports scenes, they are the messenger of peace and friendship to all children around the world affected by the war and violence, wishing the world free of war and atrocity.

In the end, it is emphasized that in today's world, where religious and ethnic extremism has become a tool of the profit making of the political power, sport, in its significant social role, could be a powerful means of spreading moral and human values. In addition, the sport structures in the world must work to create social stability, reconciliation, and dialogue among societies through the teaching of these concepts based on altruism and human culture.

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Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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GE.18-02520(E)
1802520

Please recycle

An Entrepreneurship Model for Poverty Reduction with an Environmental Conservation Approach (Sustainable development)

Mr. President,

Nowadays non-fair education and job opportunities are one of the most effective factors which lead to the widespread poverty and hunger over the world.

Labours are working for almost unlimited time, but earn limited money, i.e. imbalance of working time and income. Learning no profession and finding no basis to train their talent, fake jobs are most welcome in suburban areas.

According to the negative impacts of fake jobs, e.g. begging on kids, Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society (IASPRS) was decided to define an entrepreneurship project to follow below targets:

- Supporting vulnerable kids and empowering them

- Supporting and empowering materfamilias

- Supporting our environment to decrease amount of used plastics

Children are motivated to learn painting and play colouring bags, they enjoy education and health services while at workshops. They get out of the labour cycle as a child.

It should be noted that creative minds can find easy solutions to make money. To find justice in our world, we should try to increase creativity in vulnerable kids or develop trades base on creative ideas in suburban areas.

Children are motivated to paint and play colouring bags, they enjoy education and health services while at workshops. They get out of the labour cycle as a child.

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Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-02521(E)
1802521

Please recycle

Child abuse

In recent years, there have been many wars and disasters in the Middle East, and many children have suffered greatly from these disadvantages. Lack of inequality and poverty were the subject of many Middle Eastern countries, and wars in many cases have aggravated this. There are many examples of child abuse caused by wars in the Middle East. Iran, as one of the countries in the region, has also been affected by the wars in addition to structural poverty caused by the lack of equitable distribution of resources.

Economic poverty is one of the examples of creating structural child abuse. The lack of access to the high quality nutrition, healthcare, and education in this structure is clearly visible and includes all children, especially asylum seekers. Child labor and the recruitment of children for jobs that are dangerous child labor based on the definition of the World Labor Organization is one of the most serious abuses. Many migrant children in Iran have their jobs in collecting garbage, which often lives alone in the country. Many of their peers in Afghanistan also have the same job that is an example of exploits and enslavement of children.

Since the target group of Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society is the children of the marginalized regions, surveys from these areas to more than 1,000 children who have been subjected to specific physical, psychological, or juggling harassment show that there are a lot of legal vacuum in this area in the country. Many examples of these abuses, such as the sale of children, have not been criminalized, and we see that in many families in these neighborhoods, children are exploited as slave, and in many cases they are sold as marriages. These cases are high among immigrant families and the lack of access of these families to identity papers prevents any possibility of legal action based on the law in force in this area.

The bill on protecting children and adolescents, which can provide a good support for the protection of children at risk in these areas, has been presented to parliament for many years and, despite the acute and terrible cases of child abuse, has not seen significant progress in its adoption.

In total, it can be said that the extent and depth of child abuse experienced by these NGO relief workers in the marginalized areas is not compatible with the existing legal and supportive mechanisms, especially at the executive level. Due to the abundance of this issue, in addition to making laws and strengthening supportive infrastructure, it is necessary to have structures that are specifically required to monitor, to report and to act on child abuse, and have maximum authority in this regard.

Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society is proposing the establishment of a "child abuse watchdog" with the aim of discovering and taking action to prevent or cure the effects of this phenomenon, which is necessary due to the vulnerability of children, lack of possibility to complain and even report to the community.

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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Make Mothers Matter, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[2 February 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1802522

Please recycle

The transformative power of mothers for sustainable peace

The UN General Secretary has rightly put the prevention of conflicts and sustaining peace at the heart of his mandate. Make Mothers Matter (MMM) wants to reassert the essential role and transformative power of mothers for sustainable development and peace.

Peace begins in the home

Peace is not merely the absence of violence or conflict at the national and/or international levels. It may take different forms and begins at a much smaller scale: peace with oneself and peace of mind at an individual level; harmonious and balanced relationships within a family; social cohesion and solidarity at the community level.

The educational role of parents, in particular that of mothers, is crucial, including as role models. It is within a family that one's emotional balance is built, where fundamental values are transmitted and upon which human beings construct themselves.

It is also within the family that a child first experiences and learns the meaning of safety or distress, the joys and challenges of living in a community, and the violent or peaceful management of conflicts.

A child's early years are especially crucial and early childhood development has an important potential for the promotion of peace. An increasing amount of research stresses how safety, responsive caregiving and emotional ties within a family are equally essential for the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child, beginning as early as during pregnancy.

Peace emanates from equal opportunities with a role for each one of us in a society: social injustice is one of the main triggers of social unrest and violence. Allowing children to grow up in a healthy and loving family without violence will allow them to reach their full potential, and to find their role in society. Early childhood development and care has the potential to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and is the foundation for a long-lasting peace.

Mothers build bridges

Mothers also have the ability to gather and mobilize other mothers, to build bridges across social classes, race and ethnicity: they all share the same concerns and desire of a better future for their children, beginning with peace.

An emblematic example is the Women Wage Peace Movement. Created in 2014, it brings together women from all nations and of all religions, and aims for a peaceful and nonviolent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

An example within MMM Network of a women association contributing to peace building is Asodamas in Columbia. With the « Casas sociales de la Mujer » and under the patronage of the first ladies of various provinces, the association helps women victims of the conflict to reconstruct their lives. The empowerment of these vulnerable women, most of them mothers, is crucial for ensuring sustainable peace in Colombia.

Peace and the 2030 development Agenda: the transformative power of mothers

As recalled by the UN SG, "The best means of prevention, and of sustaining peace, is inclusive and sustainable

development."1

Empowering mothers can have wide ranging positive impacts, cutting across many Sustainable Development Goals2. It means investing in children and families, but the potential returns are high.

Mothers must be recognized as change makers, who can be instrumental in the realization the 2030 development agenda and sustainable peace - if only they are adequately educated and supported in their different roles as caregivers, head of household, food producers, decision makers, economic agent, etc.

Working for peace with mothers

To empower mothers for peace, MMM calls on governments to:

- Invest in maternal health (including maternal mental health) and early childhood development, especially targeting the most disadvantaged families: it is a key strategy for the eradication of poverty and sustainable peace

- Address violence against women and violence against children: violence against children (including abuse, physical or verbal violence, exposure to domestic violence, war or even poverty) has devastating impact on their healthy development and perpetuates violence across generations

- Recognize that the unpaid work of caring for a child, especially during the critical time between pregnancy and age 3, is essential but also time consuming, and address the unequal distribution of this work and the resulting time poverty for many mothers. Address the issue as a major obstacle to gender equality and women's participation to both the economic and political spheres. Adopt reductive and redistributive policies, notably through the development of targeted public infrastructure and services.

- Prioritize girls' education, and promote women economic empowerment and financial independence: healthy, educated and empowered mothers have healthy, educated and confident daughters and sons.

  The World Bank also found that women reinvest an average of 90% of their income in their families, vs. 30 - 40% for men. Mothers are more likely to use their economic resources on food, education and health care for their children, thus creating a path out of poverty and towards peace.

- Acknowledge the essential role and competences of mothers in both the family and public spheres: mothers need to be aware that they represent a decisive strength to tackle the multiple influences that undermine our societies.

  For example, mothers are often the pillars of the family, and they are in a privileged position to detect early signs of violent extremism and radicalization. They can learn to identify these signs of unhappiness in their children, which are similar early warnings whether they come from harassment, radicalization, drugs, or sexual abuse. Mothers should be considered as important partners in the fight against terrorism and other forms of violence and threats.

- Implement resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security

  Mothers should be able to act on the same level as other actors of civil society, get involved in public life, recognize their responsibilities, and trust themselves and their capacities in order to contribute to the development of a more balanced and safer society.

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1 UN SG Antonio Guterres, Remarks to the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on 'Building sustainable peace for all: synergies between the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and sustaining peace', 24 January 2017

2 See MMM Statement fort he 2016 ECOSOC HLS or the AMR "Leave no mother behind: empowered mothers are change makers that can make the SDGs succeed" Ref. E/2016/NGO/46

The call from Maggy Barankitse, the "Angel of Burundi"3

"Becoming a mother implies all at once, pain, joy and a mission. It is a joy to expand this great human family, when one thinks of these privileged moments where a child's smile simply makes you want to laugh, with no reason. Motherhood is a mission weaved with years of toil and on-going studies at the school of life. This is perhaps why mothers should be called to serve beyond the immediate environment of their families.

The reason is simple. If we want a world with more love, tolerance, perseverance for peace and the resolution of conflicts, a world where women would represent 50% of the executive, judicial and parliamentary instances, 50% of women at the United Nations and at the African Union… then mothers are best placed to reach these objectives.

Indeed, their lives provide mothers with the best Curriculum Vitae. Their children are the hardest government to contend with. Their families are the most difficult people to convince, to negotiate with, that they will always have to compromise with. Always! It is inherent to our nature as women and to our mission as mothers. […]
If we want to build a new peace-loving generation capable of renunciation in this world of conflicts, the role of mothers is vital."

3 Speech prepared by Maggy Barankitse for MMM Intervention at the UNESCO Forum "From the promotion to the construction of peace with NGOs", Queretaro (Mexico), November 2016